GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1146
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
DISCONTINUANCE OF POWER SUBSIDY TO STATES
Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh;Subbarayan Shri K.;Thummar Shri Virjibhai;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue power subsidy to the States as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated January 15, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding failure of the States to check power theft;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof along with the names of the States with minimum availability of electricity per family in percentage terms;

(e) whether the Government is according priority regarding electricity to such States;

(f) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the number of new houses provided electricity during 2004-05?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b): As per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers including farmers.

Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commissions, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensee the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy.

As far as grants under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms programme, there is no such proposal to discontinue the grants to the states.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) to (f) : In view of reply to (c) above, do not arise.

(g) : Government of India monitors the household electrification at the time of Census only. However, under the Kutir Jyoti and Below Poverty Line household electrification scheme, 56,492 Nos. of rural households have been electrified during the year 2004-05.